

REMARKS

The specification has been amended by this Preliminary Amendment to place the application in conformance with standard United States patent practice.

Under date of August 28, 2000, Applicants submitted substitute sheets containing amended claims 1-16 for the above-identified PCT application. Original claims 1-14 have been canceled by this Preliminary Amendment and amended claims 1-16 have been cancelled and rewritten as new claims 17-31 to eliminate the multiple dependencies and to bring the claims into conformance with standard United States Patent practice.

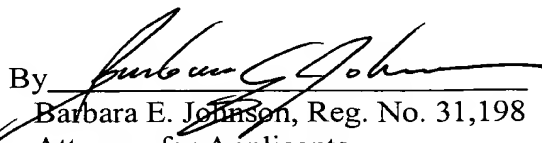
A further Amendment will be submitted in due course to address the amino acid sequence listings.

An Abstract of the Disclosure has been added as a separately typed page to be inserted after the claims.

Entry of this Preliminary Amendment and examination and allowance of claims 17-31 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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